

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A computerized method of identifying industries for potential transfer of a job function capability with respect to a first industry, the method comprising:

- a. ~~in a first digital computer process, identifying a job function in the first industry;~~
- b. ~~in a second digital computer process, accessing a database, stored on a digital storage medium, that correlates, for the job function, the first industry with a set of second industries with respect to which the job function capability is potentially transferable; and~~
- e. ~~in a third digital computer process, using the database to identify the second industries~~

a. in a first digital computer process, receiving data identifying the job function in the first industry;

b. in a second digital computer process, accessing a database, stored on a digital storage medium, containing (1) first information indicating a set of second industries to which the job function is potentially transferable from the first industry and (2) second information indicating a set of second industries from which the job function is potentially transferable to the first industry, wherein the first information and the second information are non-identical sets of information;

c. in a third digital computer process, using the database to identify at least one second industry other than the first industry for potential transfer of the job function.

Claim 4 (original): A method according to claim 3, wherein using the database to identify the second industries comprises identifying an industry into which a job function capability of a subject is potentially transferable, out of the first industry.

Claim 5 (original): A method according to claim 4, wherein the database quantifies degree of transferability between the first industry and each industry of the set of second industries.

Claim 6 (original): A method according to claim 4, wherein the database is associated with a communications network.

Claim 7 (original): A method according to claim 6, wherein the database is associated with a web server on the World Wide Web.

Claim 8 (original): A method according to claim 4, the method further comprising:
in a fourth digital computer process, identifying an enterprise, within at least one of the second industries.

Claim 9 (original): A method according to claim 8, wherein the enterprise potentially has an employment opportunity with respect to an equivalent job function.

Claim 10 (original): A method according to claim 4, the method further comprising:
in a fifth digital computer process, providing a user with a transferability rating for a transfer out of the first industry, into an industry of the set of second industries.

Claim 11 (original): A method according to claim 4, the method further comprising:
in a sixth digital computer process, providing a user with an explanation of degree of transferability out of the first industry, into an industry of the set of second industries.

Claim 12 (original): A method according to claim 4, the method further comprising:
in a seventh digital computer process, providing a user with a direct link, over a communications network, to a job posting source.

Claim 13 (original): A method according to claim 12, wherein the job posting source is a website.

Claim 14 (original): A method according to claim 12, wherein the link is keyed to a destination job posting source based on a user's input concerning a job seeker.

Claim 15 (original): A method according to claim 4, wherein the method further comprises receiving input from a user over a communications network, and wherein the step of identifying a job function is performed based on such input.

Claim 16 (original): A method according to claim 15, wherein the input is received over the Internet.

Claim 17 (original): A method according to claim 15, the method further comprising:
communicating a transferability rating to the user over a communications network, for a transfer out of the first industry, into an industry of the set of second industries.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method according to claim 17, wherein the list transferability rating is communicated over the Internet.

Claim 19 (original): A method according to claim 15, the method further comprising:
communicating an explanation of degree of transferability to the user over a communications network, for a transfer out of the first industry, into an industry of the set of second industries.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method according to claim 19, wherein the list explanation of degree of transferability is communicated over the Internet.

Claim 21 (original): A method according to claim 15, the method further comprising:
communicating a list of the second industries to the user over a communications network.

Claim 22 (original): A method according to claim 21, wherein the list is communicated over the Internet.

Claim 23 (original): A method according to claim 21, the method further comprising:
limiting the list according to preferences provided by the user.

Claim 24 (original): A method according to claim 21, the method further comprising:
providing the user with further information on at least one of the second industries over the communications network.

Claim 25 (original): A method according to claim 21, the method comprising:
providing the user with contact information for a recruiter, over the communications network.

Claim 26 (original): A method according to claim 25, wherein the recruiter specializes in recruiting for an industry of the set of second industries.

Claim 27 (original): A method according to claim 25, wherein the recruiter specializes in recruiting for the job function.

Claim 28 (original): A method according to claim 21, the method further comprising:
communicating to the user, over the communications network, a list of at least one enterprise within at least one of the second industries.

Claim 29 (original): A method according to claim 28, wherein the at least one enterprise potentially has an employment opportunity with respect to an equivalent job function.

Claim 30 (original): A method according to claim 29, the method further comprising:
providing the user with further information on an enterprise from the list of at least one enterprise, over the communications network.

Claim 31 (original): A method according to claim 29, the method further comprising:
providing the user with information on an employment contact at an
enterprise from the list of at least one enterprise, over the communications network.

Claim 32 (original): A method according to claim 29, wherein the list of at least one
enterprise is communicated over the Internet.

Claim 33 (original): A method according to claim 29, wherein the list of at least one
enterprise is restricted based upon size of company with which a job seeker has
experience.

Claim 34 (original): A method according to claim 3, wherein using the database to
identify the second industries comprises identifying an industry out of which a job
function capability is potentially transferable, into the first industry.

Claim 35 (original): A method according to claim 34, the method further comprising:
in an eighth digital computer process, providing a user with a transferability rating
for a transfer into the first industry, out of an industry of the set of second industries.

Claim 36 (original): A method according to claim 34, the method further comprising:
in a ninth digital computer process, providing a user with an explanation of degree
of transferability into the first industry, out of an industry of the set of second industries.

Claim 37 (original): A method according to claim 34, wherein the database quantifies
degree of transferability between the first industry and each industry of the set of second
industries.

Claim 38 (original): A method according to claim 34, wherein the database is
associated with a communications network.

Claim 39 (original): A method according to claim 38, wherein the database is associated with a web server on the World Wide Web.

Claim 40 (original): A method according to claim 34, the method further comprising:
in a tenth digital computer process, providing the user with a direct link, over a communications network, to a resume posting source.

Claim 41 (original): A method according to claim 40, wherein the resume posting source is a website.

Claim 42 (original): A method according to claim 40, wherein the link is keyed to a destination resume posting source based on a user's input concerning a position to be filled.

Claim 43 (original): A method according to claim 34, the method further comprising:
in an eleventh digital computer process, identifying an enterprise within at least one of the second industries.

Claim 44 (original): A method according to claim 43, the method further comprising:
in a twelfth digital computer process, providing the user with information on an employment contact at the enterprise.

Claim 45 (original): A method according to claim 34, wherein the method further comprises receiving input from a user over a communications network, and wherein identifying a job function is performed based on such input.

Claim 46 (original): A method according to claim 45, wherein the input is received over the Internet.

Claim 47 (original): A method according to claim 45, the method further comprising:

communicating a transferability rating to the user over a communications network, for a transfer into the first industry, out of an industry of the set of second industries.

Claim 48 (previously presented): A method according to claim 47, wherein the list transferability rating is communicated over the Internet.

Claim 49 (original): A method according to claim 45, the method further comprising:
communicating an explanation of degree of transferability to the user over a communications network, for a transfer into the first industry, out of an industry of the set of second industries.

Claim 50 (previously presented): A method according to claim 49, wherein the list explanation of degree of transferability is communicated over the Internet.

Claim 51 (original): A method according to claim 45, the method further comprising:
communicating a list of the second industries to the user over a communications network.

Claim 52 (original): A method according to claim 51, wherein the list is communicated over the Internet.

Claim 53 (original): A method according to claim 51, the method further comprising:
limiting the list according to preferences provided by the user.

Claim 54 (original): A method according to claim 53, wherein the preferences include a desired skill set.

Claim 55 (original): A method according to claim 51, the method further comprising:
providing the user with further information on at least one of the second industries over the communications network.

Claim 56 (original): A method according to claim 51, the method comprising:
providing the user with contact information for a recruiter, over the
communications network.

Claim 57 (original): A method according to claim 56, wherein the recruiter specializes
in recruiting for an industry of the set of second industries.

Claim 58 (original): A method according to claim 56, wherein the recruiter specializes
in recruiting for the job function.

Claim 59 (original): A method according to claim 51, the method further comprising:
communicating to the user, over the communications network, a list of at least one
enterprise within at least one of the second industries.

Claim 60 (original): A method according to claim 59, the method further comprising:
providing the user with information on an employment contact at an enterprise
from the list of at least one enterprise, over the communications network.

Claim 61 (original): A method according to claim 59, the method comprising:
providing the user with further information on an enterprise from the list of at
least one enterprise, over the communications network.

Claim 62 (original): A method according to claim 59, wherein the list of at least one
enterprise is communicated over the Internet.

Claims 63-79 (canceled).

Claim 80 (currently amended): A method according to claim 3 of identifying
industries for potential transfer of a job function capability with respect to a first industry,
the method comprising:

~~_____ a. in a first digital computer process, identifying a job function in the first industry; and~~

~~_____ b. in a second digital computer process, wherein the database is accessed using a symbolic representation of a job transfer between the first industry and a second industry, of a set of second industries with respect to which the job function capability is potentially transferable, to access a database on a digital storage medium that correlates, for the job function, the first industry with the set of second industries.~~

Claim 81 (original): A method according to claim 80, wherein the symbolic representation comprises a job function symbol.

Claim 82 (original): A method according to claim 80, wherein the symbolic representation comprises an industry symbol.

Claim 83 (original): A method according to claim 80, wherein the symbolic representation comprises a transfer operator.

Claim 84 (original): A method according to claim 80, wherein using the symbolic representation comprises accessing a transferability rating for a transfer between the first industry and the second industry.

Claim 85 (original): A method according to claim 80, wherein using the symbolic representation comprises accessing text of an explanation of degree of transferability for a transfer between the first industry and the second industry.

Claim 86 (original): A method according to claim 80, further comprising:
using the symbolic representation as an input language for a query to the database.

Claim 87 (original): A method according to claim 80, further comprising:
automatically generating the symbolic representation based upon input provided by a user.

Claim 88 (currently amended): A method according to claim 3 of identifying industries for potential transfer of a job function capability with respect to a first industry, the method comprising:

- a. ~~in a first digital computer process, identifying a job function in the first industry; and~~
- b. ~~in a second digital computer process, wherein the database is accessed using a symbolic representation that categorizes a subject of a user's job transferability query to access a database, on a digital storage medium, that correlates, for the job function, the first industry with a set of second industries with respect to which the job function capability is potentially transferable.~~

Claim 89 (original): A method according to claim 88, wherein the subject is a job seeker.

Claim 90 (original): A method according to claim 89, wherein the symbolic representation comprises a job function symbol and an industry symbol.

Claim 91 (original): A method according to claim 89, wherein the symbolic representation comprises a symbol chosen from the group consisting of: an educational background symbol, a geographical location symbol, a company size symbol, and a hierarchical position symbol.

Claim 92 (original): A method according to claim 89, wherein the symbolic representation comprises a symbol representing the subject's preferences.

Claim 93 (original): A method according to claim 88, wherein the subject is the target population of an employer's search for potential employees.

Claim 94 (original): A method according to claim 93, wherein the symbolic representation comprises a job function symbol and an industry symbol.

Claim 95 (original): A method according to claim 93, wherein the symbolic representation comprises a symbol chosen from the group consisting of: an educational background symbol, a geographical location symbol, a company size symbol, and a hierarchical position symbol.

Claim 96 (original): A method according to claim 93, wherein the symbolic representation comprises a symbol representing the subject's preferences.

Claim 97 (original): A method according to claim 88, wherein the subject is represented using symbols representing experience in more than one industry.

Claim 98 (original): A method according to claim 88, wherein using the symbolic representation comprises accessing a row of transferability ratings from a transferability matrix.

Claim 99 (original): A method according to claim 88, wherein using the symbolic representation comprises accessing text of explanations of degree of transferability corresponding to a row of a transferability matrix.

Claim 100 (original): A method according to claim 88, further comprising:
using the symbolic representation as an input language for a query to the database.

Claim 101 (original): A method according to claim 88, further comprising:
automatically generating the symbolic representation based upon input provided by a user.

Claim 102 (original): A method according to claim 88, wherein the symbolic representation is also used as an element in symbolically representing a job transfer between the first industry and the second industry.

Claim 103 (canceled).

Claim 104 (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein identifying a job function in the first industry comprises receiving input from a user, over a communications network, related to a job seeker's present job function in the first industry, whereby the second industries represent recommended industries for the job seeker's job search.

Claim 105 (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein identifying a job function in the first industry comprises receiving input from a user, over a communications network, related to an employer's industry and to a job function of interest to the employer, whereby the second industries represent recommended industries in which the employer may find a population of potential employees.

Claim 106 (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, further comprising:
in a digital computer process, updating the database's correlation of industries based upon feedback information provided by users who have used industry correlation information from the database.

Claim 107 (previously presented): A method according to claim 106, wherein updating the database's correlation is performed using a preference analysis technique.

Claim 108 (previously presented): A method according to claim 107, wherein updating the database's correlation is performed using collaborative filtering.

Claim 109 (previously presented): A method according to claim 107, wherein updating the database's correlation is performed using a preference matrix.

Claim 110 (previously presented): A method according to claim 109, wherein rows and columns of the preference matrix correspond to rows and columns in an industry transferability data structure.

Claim 111 (previously presented): A method according to claim 80, wherein identifying a job function in the first industry comprises receiving input from a user, over a communications network, related to a job seeker's present job function in the first industry, whereby the second industries represent recommended industries for the job seeker's job search.

Claim 112 (previously presented): A method according to claim 80, wherein identifying a job function in the first industry comprises receiving input from a user, over a communications network, related to an employer's industry and to a job function of interest to the employer, whereby the second industries represent recommended industries in which the employer may find a population of potential employees.

Claim 113 (previously presented): A method according to claim 80, further comprising:

in a digital computer process, updating the database's correlation of industries based upon feedback information provided by users who have used industry correlation information from the database.

Claim 114 (previously presented): A method according to claim 113, wherein updating the database's correlation is performed using a preference analysis technique.

Claim 115 (previously presented): A method according to claim 114, wherein updating the database's correlation is performed using collaborative filtering.

Claim 116 (previously presented): A method according to claim 114, wherein updating the database's correlation is performed using a preference matrix.

Claim 117 (previously presented): A method according to claim 116, wherein rows and columns of the preference matrix correspond to rows and columns in an industry transferability data structure.

Claim 118 (previously presented): A method according to claim 88, wherein identifying a job function in the first industry comprises receiving input from a user, over a communications network, related to a job seeker's present job function in the first industry, whereby the second industries represent recommended industries for the job seeker's job search.

Claim 119 (previously presented): A method according to claim 88, wherein identifying a job function in the first industry comprises receiving input from a user, over a communications network, related to an employer's industry and to a job function of interest to the employer, whereby the second industries represent recommended industries in which the employer may find a population of potential employees.

Claim 120 (previously presented): A method according to claim 88, further comprising:

in a digital computer process, updating the database's correlation of industries based upon feedback information provided by users who have used industry correlation information from the database.

Claim 121 (previously presented): A method according to claim 120, wherein updating the database's correlation is performed using a preference analysis technique.

Claim 122 (previously presented): A method according to claim 121, wherein updating the database's correlation is performed using collaborative filtering.

Claim 123 (previously presented): A method according to claim 121, wherein updating the database's correlation is performed using a preference matrix.

Claim 124 (previously presented): A method according to claim 123, wherein rows and columns of the preference matrix correspond to rows and columns in an industry transferability data structure.

Claim 125 (new): A computerized method of identifying industries for potential transfer of a job function with respect to a first industry, the method comprising:

a. in a first digital computer process, receiving data identifying the job function in the first industry;

b. in a second digital computer process, accessing a database, stored on a digital storage medium, containing information, developed for the job function, listing industries to which and from which the job function is potentially transferable, the information corresponding to markings in a square matrix,

the matrix having a pair of orthogonal axes, and a series of positions along each axis, with each position along each axis being associated with a different industry in which the job function is performed, wherein each industry occupies a corresponding position along each axis, so that

(1) in a row of the matrix corresponding to a selected industry in which an individual has experience are markings of columns of industries to which the experience of the individual is potentially transferable and

(2) in a column of the matrix corresponding to a selected industry in which a company may be seeking candidates are markings of rows of industries from which a candidate's experience therein may be transferable to the selected industry;

wherein the pattern of markings in the matrix is not symmetric; and

c. in a third digital computer process, using the database to identify at least one industry other than the first industry for potential transfer of the job function.